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Congress of the United States

Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives

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Washington, D.C. 20515

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Mr. William Casey Director C.I.A. Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Casey:

The Subcommittees on Asian and Pacific Affairs and on Human Rights and International Organizations would like CIA and INR to testify at a closed intelligence briefing on the situation and outlook in India -- particularly in the Punjab. This briefing will be held at 2:00 pm on September 25, 1984 in Room 2200 Rayburn House Office Building.

The Subcommittees would like you to address the following issues and questions in your prepared testimony:

- 1. Has there been a substantial increase in communal tension and violence in India in recent years? If so, please describe the major outbreaks and the basic reasons for such rising tensions, and whether you see such violence as cyclical in nature as part of a long-term trend.
- 2. What is the size of the Sikh community, and where in India are the major concentrations of Sikhs? What is the Sikh proportion of the total Indian population?
- 3. What are the basic causes of the conflict between the Sikhs and the Government of India? Please outline the development of the conflict, the issues in dispute, and the positions and policies of the key groups such as the Akali Dal and the Sikh student organization both within the Sikh community and those opposed to some or all of the Sikh demands, including the Indian government?
- 4. In your judgement, is the conflict basically a religious dispute or a political one, or both? If the latter is the case, please spell out how the two elements are linked.

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